



NEWS RELEASE

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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WATER BOARD APPROVES LOANS FOR WATER PROJECTS

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The Idaho Water Resource Board approved \$647,000 in loans for three water projects at its recent meeting in Coeur d'Alene, the Board announced today.

Included was a loan for \$450,000 to the Twin Lakes/Rathdrum Creek Flood Control District 17 to help replace the 96-year-old Twin Lakes Dam at the outlet of Twin Lakes about 3 miles upstream of Rathdrum.

Flood Control District officials say the replacement is needed due to the dam's deteriorated condition, costly operation and maintenance and to prevent future flood damage. The dam raises the natural level of Twin Lakes to store and release water for recreation and flood control.

The Board also approved:

- A loan of \$25,115 for the Deep "Creek Property Owners Association (Boundary County near Bonners Ferry) to construct a well house and modify well piping and controls; and
- A loan of \$175,000 to the Hoyt Bluff Water Association (Kootenai County southwest of Rathdrum) to construct a new well and a 60,000-gallon storage tank.

The Board denied a request from the City of Priest River for a \$7,500 grant for a water system planning study as it exceeded its matching funds policy.

Board members also turned down a request by the Wilderness Ranch Owners Association (Boise County south of Idaho City) for an increase of \$139,256 to an existing loan for the construction of a new surface water treatment plant but directed staff to work with the Association to resolve the Board's concerns which included uncertainty regarding other government funds and the high end cost of water per residence.

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The Board also tabled at the company's request an application for a grant or loan of \$20,000 for the Malad Valley Irrigation Company (Oneida County near Malad) to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate options for replacing St. Johns Reservoir storage.

Board members deferred until their Dec. 13 meeting a late request for a \$500,000 loan to Riverside Independent Water District for a replacement water treatment plant.

The Board also reappointed the Board of Directors for the Lake Fork Creek Water District 65K as the local committee to facilitate the rental of stored water from Little Payette Lake.

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